

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SIL-01 LAB-04 /072 W

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R 111310Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1041

AMEMBASSY LISBON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION NATO 524

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, SP

SUBJ: PORTUGAL: SOARES ATTACK AGAINST CUNHAL;

PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS IN

VOTING

REF: LISBON 715

1. LATEST ISSUE OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE "BLANCO Y NEGRO" (MONARCHIST) CONTAINS INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER AND SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES. SALIENT POINTS IN INTERVIEW ARE: (A) ASKED ABOUT THIS EARLIER STATEMENT ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF CIVIL WAR, SOARES REPLIED THAT SUCH A POSSIBILITY WAS PLAUSIBLE IF SOCIALISTS ABANDONED GOVT AND LEFT IT IN HANDS OF COMMUNISTS AND MILITARY; "FOR THAT REASON WE ARE GOING TO STAY IN THE GOVT". (B) EACH POLITICAL PARTY INTERPRETS IN ITS OWN WAY ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT'S PROGRAM. IF WE ONLY FOLLOW CORRECTLY MFA'S PROGRAM THEN WE WOULD NOT BETRAY APRIL 25. (C) ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF RIGHT-WING COUP, SOARES REPLIED THAT

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CONSEQUENCES WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC WHETHER IT CAME

FROM RIG MUEER FROM EXTREME LEFT. (D) "THE COMMUNIST PARTY DOES NOT PLAY THE DEMOCRATIC GAME AND HAS UNDER ITS EXCLUSIVE CONTROL RADIO AND TELEVISION. I AM DISAPPOINTED: ALVARO CUNHAL DOES NOT PLAY FAIR". (E) IMMIGRANTS STOP SENDING REMITTANCES AS SOON AS INSECURITY APPEARS AT HOME. FULL TEXT TO BE POUCHED.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON SPANISH MFA'S ESTIMATE OF POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATION IN PORTUGUESE ELECTIONS BY PORTUGUESE IMMIGRANTS IN SPAIN AND FRANCE IS CONTAINED IN LEE/DEL PINO MEMCON DATED JAN 31, 1975 (NOTAL). GOS HAS NOTED INDIFFERENCE AMONG APPROX 25,000 PORTUGUESE WORKERS IN SPAIN TOWARDS ELECTIONS; LESS THAN 1,000 HAVE REGISTERED WITH PORTUGUESE CONSULATES. GOS IS AWARE, HOWEVER, OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST EFFORTS TO CONTACT PORTUGUESE WORKERS IN BOTH SPAIN AND FRANCE TO MOTIVATE THEM TO PARTICIPATE. EATON

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